

# tv tropes

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## Action Girlfriend

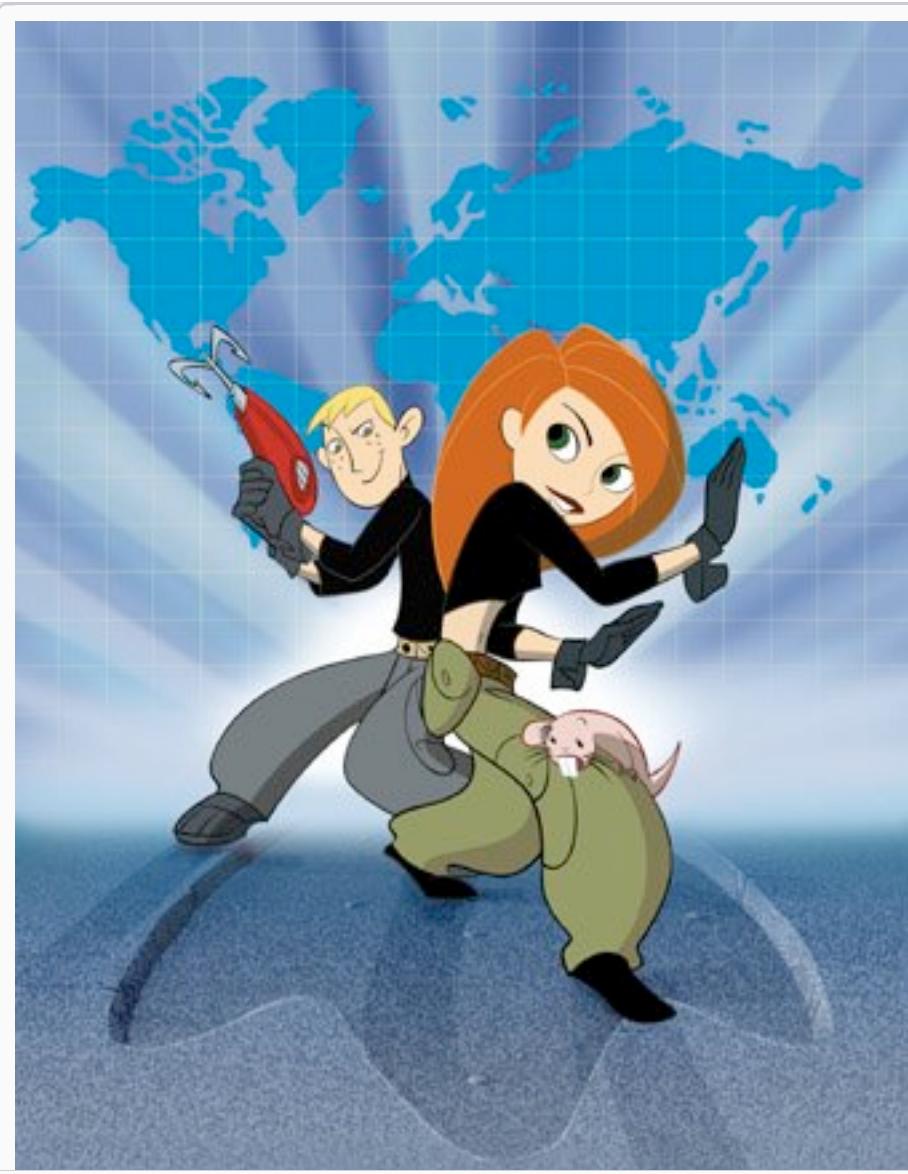


 Main

 Laconic

 Quotes

 Create New 



Ron, stop checking out Kim and *focus!*

*"Oh, oops, I forgot to leave some for Kenichi again."*

— **Miu** (after beating up all the bad guys herself... *again*), *Kenichi: The Mightiest Disciple*

It starts with an ordinary guy living an ordinary life... until he **meets a woman who changes his life forever**. Unlike a typical **Magical Girlfriend**, the series is more about her **kicking butt and taking**

names than causing [hilarity to ensue](#). The story might be told [through the guy's eyes](#), but as often as not she's the real star.

Fortunately for the guy, this doesn't mean she's completely out of his league. In fact, meeting her usually means the [Ordinary High-School Student](#) isn't so ordinary himself. That first fateful encounter will probably end up granting him special powers, or unlocking powers he didn't know he had. Maybe he did know, but didn't have a reason to use them.

In shows where [Anyone Can Die](#), an Action Girlfriend has much higher chances of survival than most other love interests, since she is rarely subject to [Cartwright Curse](#). In this case, they might become a [Battle Couple](#) and the guy to be an [Amazon Chaser](#).

She's likely to become an [Action Mom](#), if she and her boyfriend marry and have kids, or if she becomes a [parental surrogate](#). Contrast: [No Guy Wants an Amazon](#). Compare with [Violently Protective Girlfriend](#).

## Examples:

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- Although they're a [Battle Couple](#) too, girlfriend Ramona Flowers does end up fighting some enemies that boyfriend [Scott Pilgrim](#) doesn't want to fight ([those enemies being women](#)), something both of which Ramona and his enemies call him out for being a pussy on. The first instance was in a bonus comic where Ramona had to help Scott fight. The main instance was against Roxanne Richter, Ramona's 4th evil-ex. In Scott's defense, his hesitance on fighting her was heavily implied due to the fact that she was *armed with a sword* and Scott wasn't.
- Anyone who dates [Wonder Woman](#) is going to fall into this trope, save maybe for [Superman](#) or [Batman](#). [Steve Trevor](#), Wonder Woman's golden age whipping boy, was a [World War II](#) U.S. intelligence officer, but couldn't exactly hold his own against Greek gods, sorceresses, or several hundred feet tall women.
- Most people who dated [Supergirl](#) fall into this category. She's arguably the mightiest female hero in [The DCU](#), so any boy -who isn't related to her- will look a pushover compared to the Maid of

Might. It isn't coincidence that her main love interest, [Brainiac 5](#), doesn't match up to her physical power but is the greatest genius in the galaxy.

- [DC Comics](#) also has Big Barda and Mr. Miracle, two [New Gods](#) from the planet Apokolips. While Mr. Miracle isn't a pushover (the man regularly escaped deathtraps designed by [Darkseid](#)), Barda used to run the Female Furies, an all-female Apokoliptan strike team. Oh, and she's canonically almost as strong as Superman.
- As seen below, Fox to Wesley in *Wanted*. Portrayed differently in [the comics](#), where the characters are DC supervillain pastiches, and Fox is quite clearly [Halle Berry cosplaying Catwoman](#), sent by [REDACTED] to make a man out of the geek.
- The [Invisible Woman](#) of the [Fantastic Four](#) has graduated to this, after being introduced as a rather... young love interest for Mr. Fantastic. Now that Reed Richards has evolved into [the absent-minded superprofessor](#), Sue Storm has become the definition of [Team Mama Bear](#).
- In [The Maze Agency](#), the man characters are a boyfriend/girlfriend pair who solve crimes. Gabe, the male half, is a [Non-Action Guy](#) who frequently needs to be bailed out of trouble by Jen, an ex-CIA agent turned [Private Detective](#).

#### Fan Works

#### Films — Live-Action

- Leeloo from [The Fifth Element](#). Although Corben Dallas was already a trained soldier before she fell into his cab, it still gave him a reason to come out of retirement for one last mission.
- [The Matrix](#): Trinity
- [My Super Ex-Girlfriend](#), except it's the guy's current girlfriend who gets the powers.
- [Wanted](#) has the geeky protagonist receive assistance from [Angelina Jolie](#) (playing Fox, but really playing herself) transform him into a ninja assassin.

#### Literature

- In the science fiction series, [Alterien](#), Helena served in this role. She's skilled in Capoeira and she's also an Alterien. Titania later served in this role with the same qualifications.

- Ixchel in *Astral Dawn* serves in this role for Caspian. In addition to being a goddess of the moon, love and virility, Ixchel is a master combatant. She even trains Caspian in spiritual combat.
- Jody Stroud from *Bloodsucking Fiends*, a freshly turned vampire that enlists fresh-from-Indiana nightshift store manager to ease the adjustment to bloodsucking and enforced nocturnalism.
- Ludmilla Leonovna, in *David Weber's The Apocalypse Troll*, fits this trope to an extent, though as with Leeloo (above), her male love interest was a bad-ass himself before they met — a U.S. Navy captain who rose to that rank through the SEAL teams. It's just that she's an **immortal Super Soldier from The Future**...
- Katniss and Peeta start *The Hunger Games* series as a **Battle Couple**. By *Catching Fire*, Katniss has slowly becomes this to Peeta's increasingly **Non-Action Guy** status. Especially apparent during [REDACTED].
- *The Dresden Files*:
  - Most female Wizards - special mention to Elaine and Warden Commander Luccio, both for the protagonist.
  - Also for Harry, badass cop Karrin Murphy and reporter Susan Rodriguez, after [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- Kitai, of *Codex Alera*. In. Freaking. Spades. Only in the finale could Tavi possibly match her in direct badassery, except that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - Any female character, really. If she's important enough to be included by name, she can hold her own against 99% of the populace in raw furycraft or swordswomanship.
    - This is a general trend in *Jim Butcher's* books - he's very gender-blind in assigning badassness, and many of his main characters have plausible romances with at least one other main character.
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*: Annabeth to Percy in the first book, as she's been training for years while he's only just discovered he's a demigod and relies mostly on his natural powers. By the time they actually get together, he's more than caught up and is a badass all of his own. He's still happy to admit there are some areas, particularly battle strategy, where she's more skilled than him.
- The college girlfriend of the main character in *Starship's Mage* is the commodore of her planet's militia by the time we see her again after the first book.
- Kahlan Amnell of the *Sword of Truth*, especially before Richard learns how to properly use his sword [REDACTED]. After that, they're more of a **Battle Couple** She's also much better at tactics, even though he's more inspiring and has a better grasp of strategy.

- Others' fear of Kahlan's power prevented her from developing any sort of relationship, including romantic ones. Richard fell for her before he knew how dangerous she was, and she was very surprised that he didn't care.
- Cara to General Benjamin, forming a very heartwarming **Battle Couple**.
- Nicci, first to Jagang (for very squicky values of "relationship"), and later, unrequited to Richard.
- Any female Channeler in *The Wheel of Time* is this *all over the place*.
  - Special mention to Egwene, Nynaeve, and many of the Green Ajah who are in love with their Warders, forming many a **Battle Couple**.
  - Elayne, Aviendha, and Min *would* be this if their boyfriend wasn't the Dragon Reborn, the series's designated badass. It's not even a polygamous **Battle Couple**, it's entirely possible that he's a physical incarnation of the Creator himself.
  - Tuon for [redacted]. She looks like a pampered doll, but she's had combat training and faced assassination attempts since she was little. All her really extravagant clothes have loose pants and a tunic underneath it. The last three books are her slowly realizing that she's the **Battle Couple** variant of this trope.
  - Birgitte Silverbow, in a reincarnating **Battle Couple** with Gaidal Cain, though she's by far the better known of the couple.
- **Light and Dark: The Awakening of the Mage Knight:** Sabrina is this for Danny. She's his crush and a Lightborn drake that draws him into the world of knights and monsters.
- Jenny from *The Truth of Rock and Roll*, as the local **Jerk Jock** discovered to his regret when he tried to bully her boyfriend.
- Most girls in *Discworld*. Special mention goes to Angua von Uberwald, **werewolf** cop and **Action Girl**. Also **Adora Belle Dearheart (do not mention the name!)** who stamps on several men's feet with her stilettos *several* times, then wonders out loud whether or not she can push it through to the floor.
- Zanna Martindale to David Rain in *The Last Dragon Chronicles*.
- The warrior Thorn to the cloth merchant Spendwell in *Frostflower and Thorn*. Though she's more of a *sex* interest to him than a love interest, really.

## Live-Action TV

- Sarah, from *Chuck*. At least until Chuck **Took a Level in Badass** and they got together, at which

point they became a [Battle Couple](#).

- [Farscape](#). Aeryn Sun, with John Crichton as the ordinary guy, at least until he [Took a Level in Badass/Craziness](#).
- [\[REDACTED\]](#) from [Supernatural](#) would count as this trope, since it was revealed that [\[REDACTED\]](#).
- [Spartacus: Blood and Sand](#): When Sura was being attacked and [Spartacus](#) shows up and starts killing her attackers, does she run and hide? Hell no! She picks up a sword and kills one herself!
- [Doctor Who](#):
  - Rory might be the Whoniverse's resident badass, but he doesn't exactly like the adventurous lifestyle. His wife Amy is far more gung ho about going on adventures. She even saved Rory's life several times.
  - In the same vein, River Song, [\[REDACTED\]](#) is certainly more actiony compared to the main protagonist. While the Doctor would solve problems with his brains, River would solve them with some feminine charm and a gun.

 Video Games

 Visual Novels

 Web Animation

- Tex of [Red vs. Blue](#) for Church, played for laughs (more the girlfriend part for laughs than the action part...).

 Web Comics

- Hungary/Elizaveta from [Axis Powers Hetalia](#) is this to Austria, although crossed with [Violently Protective Girlfriend](#). While she's a potent [Action Girl](#) in her own right, it's *never* a good idea to mess with her ex-husband/boyfriend.
- In [Girly](#), officer Hipbone is this to Policeguy when he's not fighting too. An old opponent faced him when he had retired from the force (and thus couldn't get into fights without ending up in

trouble), so she fought for him. The guy tried to mock him for this, but Policeguy just [sat back and enjoyed the show](#).

- In *Agents of the Realm*, Jordan is this for Mackenzie, although both are girls and Mackenzie doesn't know about it.
- *Gunnerkrigg Court*: Parley is this to Andrew once they get together.
- In *Slightly Damned*, Kieri is this to Buwaro after their [Relationship Upgrade](#).
- In *Rascals*, without a doubt, Reiko with her man Skye in their team up hi-jinks as seen [here](#).

## Web Original

- *Whateley Universe* example: Bladedancer. Gateway and Chain Lightning may both have mutant powers, but they're both having to step up their game to be the significant other of the Handmaid of the Tao.
- [redacted] from *What Is This Black Magic You Call Science?*, though he's pretty harsh to said girlfriend, especially in her [daily training regimens](#).

## Western Animation

- *Futurama*: Leela to Fry since they got together.
- *Kim Possible*: The titular character is this to her sidekick and eventual boyfriend, Ron. Interestingly enough, he is the one that inadvertently gets her into the action in the first place: He encourages and helps her go and help out a trapped billionaire (the security person tried to contact Team *Impossible*, but accidentally added a k beforehand) back when they were just pre-teens. Since then, Kim has seen her heroics as an extension of her drive to help people, while Ron has been by her side all the way. They finally get together by Season 3, and Season 4 has them go through life as a couple while still dealing with the usual heroics business.
- Burn is like this to Chet *Turbo F.A.S.T.*
- *South Park*: Wendy Testaburger in "Breast Cancer Show Ever".

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